

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01 FEA-01 SSO-00

NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /095 R

DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:JSSPIRO:MH

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:JSSPIRO

STR:RHEIMLICH

EA/EP:RIMUS

EA/K:MISCH

EA/ROC:HENGLEBRECHT

EB/OT/GCP:SAHMAD

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O 202144Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

USDEL MTN GENEVA IMMEDIATE

USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CH, KS

SUBJECT: REOPENING OF MUSHROOM IMPORT RELIEF CASE AND
CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA
AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA

REF: (A) TAIPEI 1078, (B) STATE 231141

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GENEVA PLEASE PASS DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEIMER AND
BARRACLOUGH

1. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR TRADE NEGOTIATIONS (STR) ISSUED A PRESS RELEASE ON SEPTEMBER 20 ANNOUNCING THAT PRESIDENT FORD HAS REQUESTED A REOPENING OF A U.S. INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION INVESTIGATION OF CANNED MUSHROOMS. THIS MEASURE WAS TAKEN IN VIEW OF THE RECENT UPSURGE IN IMPORTS, PRIMARILY FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. IN ADDITION, IT ANNOUNCED THAT DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CLAYTON K. YEUTTER WILL VISIT TAIPEI AND SEOUL TO DEVELOP NEW INFORMATION AND TO CONSULT WITH THE GOVERNMENTS INVOLVED IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT IMPORTS WILL NOT ARRIVE IN SUCH QUANTITIES SO AS TO DISRUPT THE MARKET. THE FULL TEXT OF THE STR PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWS IN PARA 4 BELOW.

2. AMBASSADOR YEUTTER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED ON HIS TRIP BY RICHARD HEIMLICH OF STR AND JOEL SPIRO, EB/OT/STA. THEY WILL ARRIVE IN TOKYO SEPT. 22 AT 1440 ON PA 801 AND EXPECT TO ARRIVE IN TAIPEI ON SEPT. 22 AT 2110 ON NORTHWEST 7. HOWEVER, BECAUSE THEY ARE ON THE WAITING LIST FOR NW 7, THEY MIGHT BE REQUIRED TO TAKE CX 451 WHICH ARRIVES IN TAIPEI AT 1825. THEY WILL ARRIVE IN SEOUL ON SEPT. 25 AT 1510 ON SINGAPORE AIRLINES, SQ 642. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF EMBASSIES WOULD MEET AND ASSIST AMBASSADOR AND PARTY. PLEASE RESERVE THREE SINGLE ROOMS IN TAIPEI NIGHTS OF SEPT. 22-24 AND IN SEOUL NIGHTS OF SEPT. 25-28. THE PARTY PLANS TO DEPART SEOUL ON SEPT. 29 AT 1425 ON N W 22.

3. PLEASE ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THE DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSIES COULD ASSEMBLE DATA ON THE FOLLOWING:

A) MUSHROOM PRODUCTION (FRESH AND CANNED) -- PAST AND PROJECTED

B) EXPORT DATA BY COUNTRY OF DESTINATION FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS
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C) DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION OF BOTH FRESH AND CANNED MUSHROOMS

D) SHIPMENTS IN NEAR FUTURE AND PROJECTIONS FOR EXPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS

E) PRICES FOR DOMESTIC AND EXPORTED CANNED MUSHROOMS

F) PRODUCTIVE CAPACITY FOR CANNED MUSHROOMS.

WE ALSO HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT EITHER OR BOTH COUNTRIES USE SOME TYPE OF AN EXPORT QUOTA SYSTEM. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW HOW IT OPERATES AND WHAT CAUSED RAPID RISE IN EXPORTS TO THE U.S. IN JUNE - AUGUST PERIOD.

4. THERE FOLLOWS THE STR PRESS RELEASE. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

PRESIDENT MOVES TO RE-OPEN MUSHROOM IMPORT RELIEF CASE

PRESIDENT FORD TODAY REQUESTED A RE-OPENING OF A US INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION INVESTIGATION OF CANNED MUSHROOMS UNDER THE IMPORT RELIEF PROVISIONS OF THE TRADE ACT OF 1974, IN VIEW OF AN UPSURGE OF IMPORTS, PRIMARILY FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (TAIWAN) AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA. THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WAS CONFIRMED TODAY BY AMBASSADOR DENT.

LAST MARCH, THE USITC FOUND THAT IMPORTS HAVE CAUSED OR THREATENED SERIOUS INJURY TO THE DOMESTIC MUSHROOM INDUSTRY AND ITS WORKERS, AND RECOMMENDED EXPEDITED TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE AS THE APPROPRIATE REMEDY. ON MAY 17, 1976, THE PRESIDENT ACCEPTED THE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION (STR PRESS RELEASE 226).

SINCETHEN, HOWEVER, IMPORTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS HAVE INCREASED DRAMATICALLY. DURING THE MONTHS OF JUNE AND JULY, 10.4 MILLION POUNDS AND 11.9 MILLION POUNDS RESPECTIVELY WERE IMPORTED. ESTIMATES FOR AUGUST INDICATE A SIMILARLY HIGH LEVEL OF IMPORTS. THESE QUANTITIES COMPARE WITH AMOUNTS AVERAGING LESS THAN 4.5 MILLION POUNDS PER MONTH SINCE JULY, 1972.

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IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, AMBASSADOR DENT TODAY REQUESTED THE USITC TO QUOTE REVIEW THIS CASE PROMPTLY END QUOTE AND URGED THE COMMISSION QUOTE TO ISSUE ITS REPORT ON AN EXPEDITED BASIS. END QUOTE.

AMBASSADOR DENT ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAS INSTRUCTED HIM TO SEEK ASSURANCES FROM THE EXPORTING COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS THAT THEIR SHIPMENTS OF CANNED MUSHROOMS TO THE UNITED STATES, WILL NOT BE CARRIED ON AT A DISRUPTIVE RATE. AMBASSADOR DENT HAS NOTIFIED THE AMBASSADORS OF THE TWO COUNTRIES THAT DEPUTY SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE CLAYTON K. YEUTTER WILL VISIT TAIPEI AND SEOUL TO CONSULT WITH THOSE GOVERNMENTS IN ORDER TO ASSURE THAT IMPORTS WILL NOT DISRUPT THE MARKET. END

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION, PRESS RELEASES, VISITS, INVESTIGATIONS, MUSHROOMS, IMPORT CONTROLS, TRADE DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE233054
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JSSPIRO:MH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760355-0453
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760940/aaaabido.tel
Line Count: 170
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TAIPEI 1078, 76 STATE 231141
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REOPENING OF MUSHROOM IMPORT RELIEF CASE AND CONSULTATIONS WITH GOVERNMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND REPUBLIC OF KOREA
TAGS: ETRD, SOPN, OTRA, EIND, CH, KS, (YEUTTER, CLAYTON K)
To: TAIPEI SEOUL MTN GENEVA MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006